Staying and Leaving

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Staying and Leaving

by acemarkeysbiggestfan

Summary

Falling into their usual routine after months of dating, Tei notices a hiccup in his boyfriend's behavior after a rather sluggish morning, and accidentally uncovers more than he thought he might.

Notes

hi guys!!! blblblbl🥺🥺 this is my first tetro fic so they might be ooc.. but i love akitei too much to like not write abt rhem.. shoutout to decay alli n cherry for beta readinf a lot of this chapter.. ch2 maybe in a week if i lock in...

The alarm blared in Tei's ears, ringing throughout his head like a ball bouncing throughout his skull, reverberating against each side like a metal plates in his cranium. He'd probably need to take some Ibuprofen for that later.

He picked his body up off the stiff mattress, arms and legs aching from years of overuse as he reached across the bedding to silence his screaming phone, as well aid his pounding head.

Yet instead of his cold wooden side table and his phone, his hand met something warm, much different from anything else in the cramped bedroom.

He twisted his neck just enough to get a view of the source, only to get a heap of blonde hair in his face in the spot next to him.

Huh, Akiba. Yeah, that makes sense.

They'd been dating for about a couple of months now, having met a couple years back yet never doing anything serious with whatever they had. While Tei loved Akiba lots, this was also extremely beneficial for the both off them. It gave Akiba a place to stay that's not his van, and gave Tei a ride to and from his various jobs, which is exactly what he needed right now.

"Taku..." He mumbled, voice heavy from sleep. He shook him as much as his heavy limbs could, cold hands meeting the archers warm torso. Tei always wondered why the man slept shirtless, like he did most things. He guesses Akiba just ran on the warmer side, unlike Tei. Now that he thought about it, the man seemed a little too warm to the touch. Almost hot.

Regardless, he didn't necessarily have the time to question Akiba's temperature. Hell, he barely even had enough time to get the blonde man awake and himself ready. He shook the archer once more, barely a response. For a man who didn't sleep well, he slept like a rock when he did.

"Taku, get up.. I'm gonna be late." He rustled Akiba again, finally earning a response in the form of a groan and limbs stretching, barely missing Tei's face.

"God... M'up.. I'm up..." Akiba finally murmured, prompting Tei to sit up out of bed, and beeline for the bathroom, not caring whatever the archer did as long as he stayed conscious. If Tei didn't get in the shower soon, his whole schedule would be thrown out of wack.

He set his phone on the bathroom sink, having snagged it from the bedside table as he got up, peeling off his shirt and other garments and hopped into the shower, his mind eventually wandered back to his boyfriends peculiar behavior not even ten minutes earlier.

Of course, Akiba Taku is no morning person, Tei's learned *that* much over the years of knowing him, but he usually get's up pretty fast. He's well accustomed to their routine by this point, Tei thought.

As Tei scrubbed down his body, he made a mental note to further investigate whatever the hell was up with Akiba later.

God, if he even had enough time for a later. His schedule was *packed* nowadays, he really hasn't even see Akiba that much recently, he feels bad, he seriously misses spending time with him. Or doing anything besides working, really.

Well, Akiba surely couldn't be *too* lonely, right? He has all his friends to keep him company, after all. Ogura quite literally came over yesterday. Tei also recalls Akiba telling him all about one of Tsukigata's races that Ninomiya dragged him to. Despite all this evidence, Tei couldn't help but worry as he scrubbed his scalp with shampoo.

Soon realizing how much time he was losing pondering what Akiba did when he wasn't around, he hurriedly washed out whatever products he'd worked into his hair by that point and tumbled out the shower, grabbing a towel and searching for his work uniform as he made his way out the bathroom.

Making his way back into his bedroom, something he *tried* to keep tidy, yet with the addition of Akiba that goal seemed rather unrealistic until he got the time off to clean up the tornado

the blonde man left behind.

Seriously, has this guy ever heard of a hamper? Tei had thought to himself as he nudged one of the other mans shirts with his foot, judging how haphazardly it'd been discarded on the floor as he pulled together his uniform for whatever shift he was clocking into. He'd checked last night, the grocery store, right? Yeah, that was it.

The object of Tei's relentless pondering had conveniently been sat on the edge of the bed this entire time, gaze shifting between his phone screen and Tei as he'd tried to throw himself together and start his day.

Well, he wasn't on the bed anymore at least. Akiba had at some point had made his way across the room and picked up the towel Tei had dropped, fitting right in with the rest of Akiba's mess, and had begun toweling the others ridiculous mass of damp hair, neglected since he left the shower in pursuit of other things.

Wait, *what*?

"Seriously, man, you're gonna get yourself messed up one day if you keep leaving your hair like this or something. Can't you get sick like that, during winter right?" The blonde man nagged, working at an attempt to get Tei's hair somewhat dry. Tei only stood there dumbfounded, face heating up as a response.

Real hypocritical of Tei, worrying himself over Akiba's wellbeing and then letting the man take care of him like this? Don't be mistaken, Tei loves the special treatment, it all just seemed rather ironic.

"I– Taku, I can take care of my own hair, believe me." Tei refuted, cocking his head to get a view of Akiba's, yet strangely enough his suspicions from earlier only seemed to prove themselves more prominent.

As Akiba still tried his best to towel-dry his lovers hair even with their awkward position, Tei had noticed the others face was tinted an unnatural color for the man, his cheeks being flushed almost. Not like that wasn't worrying and or concerning in the slightest. Tei's brow furrowed at the sight, earning a confused look from Akiba. Tei was just as confused.

But quite frankly, Tei didn't have the time to be confused. As much as he'd like to question Akiba about his condition he simply didn't have the time, and knowing Akiba he'd probably deflect the question somehow. He's always been rather difficult like that, Tei always wondered why. Maybe it was him not wanting to be a bother, or thinking it wasn't as bad as it really was, Tei truly didn't know.

"Okayokayokay I get it!– I'll take care of my hair, but we *really* need to get moving, Taku!" Tei hurried as he checked his phone he'd placed on the dresser for the time.

The clock read *8:25 A.M*, he pocketed the device. Not necessarily bad, but too late for Tei's taste. He needed to be at work by nine-thirty, latest. Something he could easily tell is that this was all too early for Akiba, the man still looking somewhat groggy.

Now that Tei actually *did* get a look at him, he noticed something off yet again.

"Taku, put on a shirt." Sounding unimpressed, Tei swept down and picked up one of the random shirts accompanying many on the floor, tossing it Akiba's way.

"Do I *have* to? I'm literally just dropping you off, why do I need a shirt?" Akiba whined, obviously peeved by the order.

"Yes, you do. Because fun-fact, you don't just drop me off, you like to loiter around in the parking lot holding me up, where people see you."

"I've gotten like- Actual complaints from my boss about you standing around flashing your chesticles for locals in heat, or whatever." It annoyed Tei on how this wasn't common sense to the man, but it didn't necessarily matter anyways. Even if he was mad at Akiba, he could never stay mad for long, he loved him after all.

"Ugh.. Fine. But like- It's so hot today, i'm gonna like, die of heat, or something." Akiba grumbled, sliding on the shirt, yet his complaint catching Tei's attention.

Of course, Akiba ran hotter than Tei but like– It was *chilly* out today. Tei was cold even in bed earlier so there's certainly no reason for Akiba to be hot like that, breaking a sweat no less. Could he be like.. Sick or, something? It's definitely not uncommon, the colds been going around for a little bit now.

Nah, he'd tell him right? Sure, Akiba had his skeletons but this is different than a secret. Akiba also didn't seem like the type to let his pride get in the way of admitting he's down for the count, so it's probably just another weird Akiba thing.

Eventually after working a brush through his hair and snagging a light scarf among other things he'd need, though ignoring the feeling he'd forgotten something, he slipped on his shoes and waited at the door for Akiba, Tei checked his phone once more.

Eight-fourty, he hummed to himself before slipping his phone into his pocket, finally chatching sight of the man he'd been waiting on as he finally emerged from the hallway and eventually meeting Tei at the doorway.

The pink-haired man studied his questionable wardrobe. Same shirt Tei handed him, same sweats he wore to bed that night, and he could only assume he'd chosen to sport the sandals resting by where Tei's shoes originally were. Again, unusual for a cold day, but it's not like Akiba would necessarily be out for that long, but it still made him wonder.

Almost like a reflex, Tei's hand reached up, back of his hand feeling against one Akiba's cheeks

momentarily before switching to do the same for the other.

"Taku, are you sure you're feeling alright? You're kinda warm.." Tei puzzled, before pulling his hand back, stuffing it back in his pocket.

Akiba faltered, the redness in his face being now more a result of Tei's concern and proximity, rather than any illness.

"I– Yeah, i'm all good. I probably just need to lie down or somethin'. But *man*, I've got a *killer* headache though. Did you ever pick up any more ibuprofen the other day? I know I could use it."

Oh yeah, that's what he'd forgot.

While Tei's headache from earlier that morning had decreased to more of a light nuisance than anything, it wasn't something he'd be willing to go a full workday with.

"Shit.. I Totally forgot.." He grimaced, mentally scolding himself for being so forgetful.

"I'll have to pick some up while i'm out today, probably at the end of my shift, sorry about that.. It like, totally slipped my mind." While he felt sorry that Akiba would have to deal with a headache the entire day, it's not like there's much either of them could do about it at that moment, so there's really no use being stuck on it.

"Nah, don't worry about it. I'll be fine for a couple of hours anyways. You ready?" Akiba reassured, twirling his vans keys on a finger, already sliding on his sandals and making his way past Tei to open the apartment door.

"Oh– Yeah, let's go. I'll be late at this rate.." He complained, soon following the taller man out the door.

Tei slid into the passengers seat of Akiba's van, shutting the door as he set his stuff down on his lap, twisting his body in search of his bag with his other uniform the back seats, he had a shift at the gas station today, too.

He turned to Akiba, who already situated himself inside and had started the car, and was now messing with the radio and its various notches

It seemed all too complicated for Tei's liking, but Akiba understood it just fine from how he always navigated it flawlessly. Probably because he's had the thing for the longest time now.

The trip down to the van wasn't all that interesting, yet Tei still kept a close eye on the archer just in case. Besides the fact he seemed a bit more sluggish than usual, he seemed fine, it's early in the morning anyways. Maybe Tei's just overthinking it.

Having fooled with it enough, Akiba finally landed on a station he liked and put the van in drive. Tei held the bag unzipped on his lap, putting stuff he brought from his apartment inside while also digging through the contents, double-checking everything.

"clothes... yeah, card... yeah. keys... mhmm.." Tei muttered to himself, even if everything had been left the exact same as it had been the night before when he got home, he still had to check or he'd.. Die, or something. It was just something he did, really. Could never be too sure, could never be too prepared.

During the car ride Tei had noticed how.. hazy.. Akiba looked. That flushed hue on his face never really going away, also the fact he nearly missed a green light due to zoning out mid-stop. This couldn't just be Tei being paranoid right? He couldnt tell if he feared more for his boyfriend or his own life.

In the middle of his worrying, he'd noticed they had pulled up at his stop. He gathered his things and turned to look at Akiba, mentally preparing himself for their usual routine of back and forth bickering before Tei eventually uses up all of his time and has to run off.

"Call me if you need anything, Okay?" He called out, leaning into Akiba, giving him a kiss on the cheek. The archer smiled, chuckling softly.

"Aren't *I* usually the one telling you that?" Akiba asked, a smirk growing wider over his once foggy expression. Tei smiled back.

"Yeah, well, I think you need it more than me today." Tei sneered. Despite it being a joke, his sentiment was true.

"Atsushi I already told you, i'm *good*, I'll be *fine*. Stop worrying so much."

"Taku."

Tei gave him a look the archer wouldn't dare challenge, with a yawn, Akiba realized one way to get the other off his case.

Leaning in and pulling the pink-haired man close, he placed a kiss on his lips, a quick peck. inching back, Akiba saw the reddish hue spreding across Tei's face, similar to the one he'd been nagged over earlier that morning. The sight made the archers grin a little wider.

Tei didn't seem nearly as amused, more flustered than anything.

"G- God, Taku! You're the worst!" Despite his stern words, Tei's face betrayed him with a grin spreading quick across his features. In a split-second desicion, Tei leaned back in, closing the distance once more, returning the favor with a quick kiss to Akiba.

"Love you, see you at seven." Tei rushed, opening the car door before turning to glance at his boyfriend one last time.

"Love you too, bye!" Akiba called out, Tei already halfway out the car by the time Akiba processed the boys words.

Tei was already halfway across the parking lot by the time he heard Akiba start up the engine again and speed off. He twirled the stores keys on a finger, a habit he picked up from god knows where. Tei was opening today, which was a pain enough without all the extra junk that came with it.

His annoyance lessened as he heard a voice call out to him, turning around, he saw a blur of highlighted hair making it's way towards him.

Shinda, one of his coworkers. The girl worked part-time just like Tei himself, yet was much less vigilant about it than Tei. The tan girl was only a little younger than Tei, about fifteen or sixteen, so the two got along fine.

"Morning, Tei!" Her voice rang, catching up with him at last, as Tei had stopped the moment he heard her.

"Oh- Good morning, Shinda. You're here early, did something happen?"

Unsurprisingly to Tei, the girl wasn't the most punctual in the world. So it caught him off guard the way she'd actually made it exactly on time. Of course, he's glad she's here regardless. It means less work for him in the long run, but even then he was still curious. The girl began to walk to the store entrance, Tei followed.

"Well, I woke up thinking I was late, got ready, and realized I'd actually been early. Decided I could go ahead and get here before traffic hit, and all. Plus, you're opening today, so that's good. You're fun to talk to, after all." Shinda shrugged, twisting and twirling a lock of her hair between her fingers.

While Tei was still trying to wrap his head around the mouthful that just poured from his mouth, he understood what she meant and appreciated the sentiment.

"Well.. Uh- Thanks, I guess?" Tei puzzled, struggling with the buildings keys before hearing an eventual '*click*' from the lock, he sighed one of relief.

She chuckled, nodding her head at his gratitude with a grin. Tei's grievances with the store locks entertained her, while Tei himself could only grimace at the misfortune. He quickly stuffed the keys back into his pocket, shuffling inside the building as he attempted to stifle the embarrassment.

Walking into the store with Shinda in tow, he flicked on the lights and begun his routine to the best of his ability before the masses came around for opening time. To start it off, inventory! How fun.

He'd dragged the girl down the aisles of the store, her complaints filled the silence and humming of the overhead lights, yet his thoughts still drifted back to one particular archer who'd been plaguing his thoughts since the moment he'd woken up.

He seemed fine when he was dropping Tei off, didn't he? Then what was his behavior before that all about? The slip-ups while in the car, his unusually high temperature? He says he's okay, but Akiba's never been one to really care for his health all that much. It worried Tei.

In the midst of Tei's inner turmoil, he felt eyes burning holes into his back. Putting down the cans on the shelf, and slowly turning around, he saw Shinda to be the cause of his paranoia. Tei gave the girl a confused look, wondering why she'd been so intensely focused on his back.

"Uhm.. Shinda..? You okay..?"

"Somethings on your mind, isn't it?"

Oh. Guess the secrets out, just Tei's luck.

"Why's that *any* of your business, like, at all?" He groaned, a moment of silence occurred, a pause between the two as they stared, searching for the words. Until Shinda's blank expression slowly warpped into a smirk. Tei's anxiety only rose.

"Well.. I *wasn't* all that curious before, but now I definitely am. What're you hiding, Tei?" She chuckled, leaning in closer to Tei. It was clear she was only trying to tease him.

"Shinda it's nothing, I promise." Unsurprisingly, the girl didn't seem very convinced. Only placing a hand on her hip, a skeptical look washing over her face, Tei's obvious lies not phasing her in the slightest.

Tei groaned, rolling his eyes and accepting his fate.

"Ohhh— My god, fine. I'll tell you, just stop prying already." His words strung out with annoyance lacing his tone, obviously not a fan of this conversation. Shinda looked nothing short of pleased.

"It's Taku, i'm worried–"

"Oh, isn't that your little boyfriend or something?" Tei grit his teeth at the girls comment.

"Shut it and let me finish." Shinda only rolled her eyes.

"Anyways, he's like— So obviously sick, but he's also kinda not? I can't figure it out- Or like, *anything*, for that matter 'cuz he *seems okay*. But he won't tell me anything when there's obviously something up!" Tei exclaimed, hands moving rapidly in-sync with his mouth as he ranted.

"Oh, so it's like you're worried he's sick, right? Tei, i'm sure he can look after himself. You worry too much, dude." Shinda reaffirmed, unaware of what's actually bugging Tei about the

whole situation.

"No- Shinda, that's not even it!" Tei cried out, catching the curious girl off guard.

"It's just.. He does so much for me, and he won't even let me help him out back! Like, ever." Tei sighed, regaining his composure slowly but surely, yet cleary exasperated. Shinda's face contorted, deep in thought before she sprung back with another idea.

"Oh! You said he's not feeling the best, right? A good place to start is to pick him something up to help later, like some medicine and junk! Y'know?" She offered, unknowingly giving Tei advice he was already planning on acting upon.

He still appreciated the effort though, she's a bright girl after all.

"Yyyeaaahh. I'll make sure to check that out, thanks, Shinda." He smiled with a sigh, turning back around to continue his work, still a bit dejected.

"I just wish he'd be more up-front about this stuff, though. It'd save both of us a lot of trouble really." Tei checked his list over again, double checking it all.

"Hey man, best of luck to you. I know you'll need it."

God, Tei knew she was right. Regardless of how annoyed Akiba's rash behavior made him, he still loved the blonde more than anything in the world, and the thought of being on the outside when he's hurting– It hurt *him*. He just hopes he'll be able to get through to Akiba, at least.

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